

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

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FOR MS. FALCO FROM THE CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, NL
SUBJECT: SPECIAL ISSUE - DRUG ENFORCEMENT MAGAZINE

REF: STATE 159521

1. BECAUSE OF THE PROMINENT POSITION OF THE NETHERLANDS IN CONNECTION WITH NARCOTICS ISSUES, WE WERE INITIALLY VERY MUCH ATTRACTED TO YOUR SUGGESTION THAT THE POST PREPARE AN ARTICLE THAT COULD BE PUBLISHED IN THE AMBASSADOR'S NAME IN A SPECIAL ISSUE OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT MAGAZINE. AS CHARGE, I REVIEWED THE IDEA OF SUCH AN ARTICLE COVERING THE DUTCH SITUATION WITH THE SENIOR OFFICERS IN THE EMBASSY, INCLUDING THE PAO, THE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR AND THE SAIC DEA. THE RESULT OF OUR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WAS TO CONCLUDE REGRETFULLY THAT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AN ARTICLE DEALING SPECIFICALLY WITH THE NETHERLANDS WOULD PRESENT PROBLEMS IN PREPARATION AND COULD PROVOKE AN UNFORTUNATE DUTCH REACTION. THERE IS AN INCIDENTAL PRACTICAL CONSIDERATION SINCE AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY LEFT HIS POST IN MARCH AND THE NEW AMBASSADOR HAS NOT YET

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ARRIVED.

2. OUR NEGATIVE CONCLUSION REFLECTS THE FACT THAT DEA GAVE A RECENT PRESS INTERVIEW TO A DUTCH JOURNALIST THAT DREW A MOST ADVERSE REACTION FROM DUTCH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS WHO THOUGHT THAT THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND INTEGRITY WERE BEING QUESTIONED. THERE WERE EVEN INTIMATIONS THAT THE DUTCH MIGHT

TERMINATE THEIR COOPERATION WITH DEA. THIS EXPERIENCE REVEALED A HIGH LEVEL OF LOCAL SENSITIVITY THAT WE THINK WE MUST RESPECT. SPECIFIC FOCUS ON THE NETHERLANDS RISKS REVIVING EARLIER AND STILL LATENT DUTCH HOSTILITY TO ASSUMED US DOMINATION OF EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE DRUG PROBLEM AND COULD AFFECT CONTINUED DUTCH COOPERATION WITH US.

3. WE WOULD NOT RULE OUT A BROADER REVIEW OF NARCOTICS PROBLEMS IN WESTERN EUROPE THAT INCLUDES SOME DISCUSSION OF DUTCH SITUATION. SHOULD DEPT DECIDE TO PROCEED ALONG THESE LINES WE WOULD APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW PERTINENT SECTION.
BROWN

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